

Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2013 • Department of Public Works • Conference Room,
4:30 PM

Attending: John Root, Sue Morrello, Brenda Davies, Craig Goff, Laurel Dickey, Susan Waite.

- **Approve April 2013 minutes:** Minutes approved unanimously as edited.
- **Sustainability Festival Wrap-up:** Great event! Many people stopped at the booth. People seemed inspired - awareness is raised. Craig will create poles for the textile collection banner next year. Info on the table could have been more organized. Flyers for textile collection need some sort of a holder. Collected about ½ the amount of textiles as last year (might not have been as well advertised, some people have been taking things directly to the Salvation Army). Sue M. will write a thank you email to the UMass UCan volunteers who helped with the textile collection.
- **Discuss member recruitment:** Sue M. will ask Arnie Alper if he is ready to join the RRMC. If he agrees, this will provide for full membership on the committee.
- **Revisit zero waste proclamation plan:** Susan Waite took the proposed proclamation to Guilford for review. Both Aaron Hayden and Guilford have asked why another committee is needed. Susan explained that we feel we are likely to get a broader base of involvement and participation. Guilford feels that if the haulers understand the impact that zero waste policy decisions will have on their businesses, they will participate in the planning process. Republic, a large hauler, is likely to participate, which will inspire the more local, smaller haulers to participate. The question of who will manage the planning process was discussed. A subcommittee was suggested as an alternative to creating a task force or a separate committee. Sue Morrello made a motion to change language in the zero waste proclamation such that a subcommittee of the RRMC is created rather than a separate task force. Motion passed unanimously. Part of the summer work of the subcommittee will be to research best practices in terms of what other communities are doing in support of Zero Waste (including the Hampshire Co. Council of Governments and the Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission). Brenda made a motion to accept the Zero Waste resolution as edited. Motion passed unanimously. Susan W. will send the resolution to the Select Board.
- Topics not reasonably anticipated 72 hours prior to the meeting: None.
- New business & news updates
 - Composting at the transfer station is up and running. There will be a piece aired this evening on Channel 22 TV news about this. Amend Organics can be used for composting at events (recent Ultimate Frisbee Tournament used them). Some people have requested smaller bags at the transfer station. As a start-up business Amend Organics has limited income and the bags (have a very limited

shelf-life) must be purchased in large quantities. Alternate bags may not be forthcoming anytime soon.

- Composters and Rain Barrels: 33 rain barrels and 24 composters have been sold this year. \$5 made per Amherst resident, \$10 per out of town purchase. 15 rain barrels remain to be sold and are available at the transfer station.
- The recycling coordinator in Northampton is on administrative leave. The Northampton landfill closed last Friday. Susan Waite has agreed to help out on a part-time, interim basis in Northampton.
- Sue Morrello raised the issue that the DPW may feel that the success of composting in the high school both costs money in terms of needing to hire a separate hauler for the compost, as well as the loss of revenue due to a smaller amount of trash being picked up (and billed by weight) at the school. Sue Morrello will contact Guilford Mooring to explore these issues and ask if the DPW would like advocacy support in terms of the fee structure for refuse pick-up at the schools. Currently there is no charge.
- Sue Morrello will also ask Guilford about the usefulness of getting support concerning how to proceed with the transfer station solvency situation from the UMass Business School.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:20.